

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus for receiving related information about contents, comprising:

means for obtaining a callsign of a broadcasting station in accordance with an external input signal, wherein the callsign identifies the broadcasting station;

~~transmission means for transmitting user personal information to an external device that provides related information about contents included in broadcast information being received, in order to request user registration; storing means for storing said user personal information in a storage medium;~~

~~detection means, when in making an access request to said external device, for detecting whether or not [[said]] user personal information has been stored in a [[said]] storage medium, when making an access request to an external device that provides said related information about the contents broadcast by the broadcasting station;~~

~~transmission means for transmitting related information request information that requests said related information about the contents, in accordance with the detection result by said detection means and for transmitting available/unavailable request information that requests information showing whether or not said external device offers a service providing said related information about the contents, if said user personal information is not detected by said detection means; [[and]]~~

~~notification means for notifying information concerning a service, providing said related information about the contents, being offered by said external device, in accordance with the detection result by said detection means and for receiving available/unavailable information, showing whether or not said external device offers said service, in reply to said~~

available/unavailable request information, if said user personal information is not detected by said detection means;

means for transmitting said callsign and said user personal information to said external device in order to request user registration in accordance with said available/unavailable information, wherein said user personal information is utilized to register with said external device, if said user personal information is not detected by said detection means;

means for receiving registration-completed information from said external device, if said user personal information is not detected by said detection means; and

means for storing said user personal information in said storage medium, if said user personal information is not detected by said detection means.

2. (Currently Amended) The communication apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein ~~:- said transmission means transmits available/unavailable request information that requests information showing whether or not said external device offers a service providing said related information about contents, in accordance with said detection result by the detection means; and said notification means receives information showing whether or not said external device offers said service that was replied to said available/unavailable request information, and~~ notifies whether or not said external device offers the service providing said related information about the contents, ~~based on the above information.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The communication apparatus according to Claim 2, ~~characterized by; including~~ further comprising;

display means for displaying advertisement information to promote said user registration in accordance with a reply to said transmitted available/unavailable request information.

4. (Currently Amended) The communication apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein [[;]] a URL showing [[said]] advertisement information to promote said user registration is included in a reply to said transmitted available/unavailable request information.

5. (Currently Amended) The communication apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein [[;]] said user personal information includes at least name information corresponding to [[the]] a name of said communication apparatus.

6-8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) A communication method in a communication apparatus for receiving related information about contents, comprising the steps of:

obtaining a callsign of a broadcasting station in accordance with an external input signal, wherein the callsign identifies the broadcasting station;

~~transmitting user personal information to an external device that provides related information about contents included in the broadcast information being received, in order to request user registration; storing said user personal information in a storage medium;~~

detecting whether or not [[said]] user personal information has been stored in a [[said]] storage medium, when [[in]] making an access request to an [[said]] external device

that provides said related information about the contents broadcast by the broadcasting station;

transmitting available/unavailable request information that requests information showing whether or not said external device offers a service providing said related information about the contents, if said user personal information is not detected in said detecting step;

receiving available/unavailable information, showing whether or not said external device offers said service, in reply to said available/unavailable request information, if said user personal information is not detected in said detecting step;

transmitting said callsign and said user personal information to said external device in order to request user registration in accordance with said available/unavailable information, wherein said user personal information is utilized to register with said external device, if said user personal information is not detected in said detecting step;

receiving registration-completed information from said external device, if said user personal information is not detected in said detecting step;

storing said user personal information in said storage medium, if said user personal information is not detected in said detecting step; [[and]]

transmitting ~~related information~~ request information that requests said related information about the contents; ~~in accordance with said detection result~~, and

notifying information concerning a service, providing said related information about the contents, being offered by said external device, ~~in accordance with said detection result~~.

10-11. (Canceled).

12. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium including a communication program in a communication apparatus for receiving related information about contents, wherein the communication program, when executed by a computer, makes the for making a computer perform the processing for a method comprising:

obtaining a callsign of a broadcasting station in accordance with an external input signal, wherein the callsign identifies the broadcasting station;

transmitting user personal information to an external device that provides related information about contents included in the broadcast information being received, in order to request user registration; storing said user personal information in a storage medium;

detecting whether or not [[said]] user personal information has been stored in a [[said]] storage medium, when [[in]] making an access request to an [[said]] external device that provides said related information about the contents broadcast by the broadcasting station;

transmitting available/unavailable request information that requests information showing whether or not said external device offers a service providing said related information about the contents, if said user personal information is not detected in said detecting step;

receiving available/unavailable information, showing whether or not said external device offers said service, in reply to said available/unavailable request information, if said user personal information is not detected in said detecting step;

transmitting said callsign and said user personal information to said external device in order to request user registration in accordance with said available/unavailable information wherein said user personal information is utilized to register with said external device, if said user personal information is not detected in said detecting step;

receiving registration-completed information from said external device, if said user personal information is not detected in said detecting step;

storing said user personal information in said storage medium, if said user personal information is not detected in said detecting step; [[and]]

transmitting ~~related information~~ request information that requests said related information about the contents ~~in accordance with said detection result, or ; and~~

notifying information concerning a service providing said related information about the contents [[to]] by said external device ~~in accordance with said detection result.~~

13. (Canceled).

14. (New) The communication method according to Claim 9, further comprising:
displaying advertisement information to promote said user registration in accordance with a reply to said transmitted available/unavailable request information.

15. (New) The communication method according to Claim 9, wherein a URL showing advertisement information to promote said user registration is included in a reply to said transmitted available/unavailable request information.

16. (New) The communication method according to Claim 9, wherein said user personal information includes at least name information corresponding to a name of said communication apparatus.

17. (New) A communication apparatus, comprising:

a processor configured to obtain a callsign of a broadcasting station in accordance with an external input signal, wherein the callsign identifies the broadcasting station, the processor being configured to detect whether or not user personal information has been stored in a storage medium, when making an access request to an external device providing related information about contents broadcast by the broadcasting station, the processor being configured to transmit available/unavailable request information that requests information showing whether or not said external device offers a service providing said related information about the contents, configured to receive available/unavailable information, showing whether or not said external device offers said service, in reply to said available/unavailable request information, configured to transmit said callsign and said user personal information to said external device in order to request user registration in accordance with said available/unavailable information, wherein said user personal information is utilized to register with said external device, configured to receive registration-completed information from said external device, and configured to store said user personal information in said storage medium, if said user personal information is not detected by said processor, the processor further configured to transmit request information that requests said related information about the contents; and

a notification unit configured to notify information concerning a service, providing said related information about the contents, being offered by said external device.